

IN THE CLAIMS:

Kindly amend claims 1, 6-8 and 15 and cancel claims 2, 3, 13, 14, 24 and 25 as follows:

1. (Currently amended) A strand-form vehicle seal, equipped with a flexible reinforcement that defines a longitudinal direction and has a uniform generally U-shaped ~~or C form~~ cross section in planes generally normal to said longitudinal direction, wherein said flexible reinforcement [[forms]] is formed as a strand of at least two different substances, including first individual sections (1) of a nonmetallic, generally soft elastic material having a predetermined hardness together with second individual sections (2) of another nonmetallic, ~~however~~ dimensionally stable [[and]] generally rigid[[,]] material having a hardness greater than said predetermined hardness [[that]] is harder than the material of said first sections, with the individual said first and second sections (1, 2) of the flexible reinforcement having said U-shaped cross-section and being disposed along said longitudinal direction intermittently alternating one after the other along said longitudinal direction, successive first sections being fully separated from each other by adjacent second sections and successive second sections being fully separated from each other by adjacent first sections.
2. (Cancelled)
3. (Cancelled)
4. (Previously presented) A strand-form vehicle seal as claimed in claim 1, wherein the nonmetallic material forming said first sections is a thermoplastic elastomer.
5. (Previously presented) A strand-form vehicle seal as claimed in claim 1, wherein the nonmetallic-material forming said second sections is a synthetic material.

6. (Currently amended) A strand-form vehicle seal as claimed in claim 1, wherein said flexible reinforcement strand is ensheathed entirely or partially encapsulated with one or several soft or synthetic materials (3).
7. (Currently amended) A strand-form vehicle seal as claimed in claim 6, wherein the ensheathing encapsulating synthetic materials (3) entirely or partially enclose entirely or partially at least one hollow volume.
8. (Currently amended) A method for the production of a strand-form vehicle seal, which is equipped with a flexible reinforcement that defines a longitudinal direction and has a uniform generally U-shaped cross section in [[plane]] planes generally normal to said longitudinal direction, wherein the method comprises the steps of forming said flexible reinforcement as a strand of at least two different substances, one a nonmetallic, generally soft-elastic material having a predetermined hardness forming first individual sections (1) and another nonmetallic, ~~however~~ dimensionally stable [[and]] generally rigid[[,]] material forming second individual sections (2) and being harder than the material of said first sections having a hardness greater than said predetermined hardness, with the individual first and second sections (1, 2) intermittently being disposed alternating one after the other along said longitudinal direction, successive first sections being fully separated from each other by adjacent second sections and successive second sections being fully separated from each other by adjacent first sections.
9. (Previously presented) A method as claimed in claim 8, wherein said reinforcement strand is formed by an extrusion process.
10. (Previously presented) A method as claimed in claim 8, wherein said reinforcement strand is formed by an injection molding process..

11. (Previously presented) A method as claimed in claim 9, wherein the nonmetallic material forming said first sections is selected a thermoplastic elastomer.

12. (Previously presented) A method as claimed in claim 9, wherein said nonmetallic material forming said second sections is selected a synthetic material.

13. (Cancelled)

14. (Cancelled)

15. (Currently amended) A method as claimed in claim 8, wherein said reinforcement strand is ~~ensheathed~~ entirely or partially encapsulated with one or a further soft or synthetic materials (3).

16. (Withdrawn) Device for the production of a strand-form vehicle seal, which is equipped with a flexible reinforcement with U- or C-form cross section or one derived therefrom, with the reinforcement strand being formed of at least two different substances which are disposed as individual sections intermittently, in each instance alternating one after the other, comprising at least two extruders (6, 7) and a common injection head (8), characterized in that between the two extruders (6, 7) and the common injection head (8) an intermittence device (9) is disposed which divides the strands (10, 11) of the two extruders (6, 7) and presses the divided extrudate compositions alternating continuously one after the other into the common injection head (8).

17. (Withdrawn) Device as claimed in claim 16, characterized in that the intermittence device (9) is comprised of two rotors (12, 13) which have at their circumference recesses (14) and between these recesses (14) projections (15), with the projections (15) of the one rotor (12, 13) extending in each instance into the recesses (14) of the other rotor (13, 12),

that the geometric form of the projections (15) and of the recesses (14) is selected such that the circumference of the recess (14) into which it extends, rolls out on the circumference of the recess (14) and, in the process, reduces the volume in this recess (14) between the circumference of the recess (14) and the circumference of the projection (15), and that in the housing (17) a stationary opening (18) is provided leading to the injection head (8) at the site of the chamber formed by the inner circumference of the recess (14) and the outer circumference of the projection (15) for the discharge of the extrudate from this chamber continuously changing in its volume.

18. (Withdrawn) Device as claimed in claim 17, characterized in that the flanks of the chamber have involute form.

19. (Withdrawn) Device as claimed in claim 17, characterized in that each rotor (12, 13) has its own drive.

20. (Withdrawn) Device as claimed in claim 17, characterized in that the intermittence device (9) comprises at least one bypass (19) which can be actuated on and off for a sequential actuating on and off of the soft and/or hard component.

21. (Withdrawn) Device as claimed in claim 17, characterized in that the rotors (12, 13) can be exchanged pairwise against others with a different fill volume.

22. (Withdrawn) Device as claimed in claim 17, characterized in that the rotors are equipped with the same or different chamber volumes.

23. (Withdrawn) Device as claimed in claim 17, characterized in that the rotors are supported in friction or roller bearings.

24. (Cancelled)

25. (Cancelled)